



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FINAL AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2340

wild horses; management; prohibition

Purpose

Prohibits the harassment, capture, slaughter and other like actions against the Salt River horse herd.

Background

Current law defines a stray animal as livestock, bison or raptures whose owner is unknown or cannot be located, or whose owner is known but allows the animal to roam at large (A.R.S. § 3-1401). Current law also outlines procedures to be followed when a person or livestock officer finds a stray animal (A.R.S. § 3-1402). Furthermore, livestock officers are required to seize animals whose ownership is questionable, given certain requirements (A.R.S. § 3-1371).

The exact number of Salt River horses residing in Tonto National Forest is currently unknown.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Prohibits a person from harassing, shooting, injuring, killing or slaughtering a horse that is part of the Salt River horse herd.
2. Prohibits a person from interfering with, taking, chasing, capturing or euthanizing a horse that is part of the Salt River horse herd without prior authorization from the Department of Agriculture (Department) or the County Sheriff.
3. Specifies that the Department or the County Sheriff may provide written authorization for humane purposes only.
4. States that a person found in violation of the above provisions is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

5. Allows public or private officials to address incidents that compromise the safety of either the Salt River horse herd or the public, provided that they receive authorization from the Department or the County Sheriff.
6. Requires the Department to attempt to prove ownership of a horse with any brand or other mark indicating ownership before providing written authorization to interact with the Salt River horse herd.
7. Requires the state to enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service (Forest Service) in order to address any issue involving the Salt River horse herd.
8. Specifies that the state may enter into an agreement with a private entity to address issues involving the Salt River horse herd.
9. Conditions the implementation of the provisions of the bill on the Department entering into an agreement with the Forest Service to address issues relating to the Salt River horse herd.
10. Specifies that Salt River horses are not stray animals as defined in statute, and are not subject to livestock seizure and holding as defined in statute.
11. States that the intentional release of a domesticated horse into the wild is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
12. Specifies that Salt River horses include those that have historically inhabited the Tonto National Forest and do not have an ownership brand.
13. Makes technical and conforming changes.
14. Becomes effective on the general effective date or later, subject to the provisions of the conditional enactment clause.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Strikes the legislative findings clause from the bill.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

- Adds requirements and specifications relating to the management of the Salt River horse herd.

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House Action

FSR	2/17/16	DPA	5-2-0-1
3 rd Read	2/25/16		38-22-0

Senate Action

FMFR	3/8/16	DPA	7-0-0
3 rd Read	4/11/16		27-2-1

Signed by the Governor 5/11/16

Chapter 136

Prepared by Senate Research

May 19, 2016

FB/ZD/rf